

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 SR-02 ORM-03 SCS-03

SCA-01 ACDA-19 AID-20 SWF-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 HEW-08 DRC-01 NIC-01 MC-02 OMB-01

/195 W

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R 081135Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5064

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

ZEN AMCONSUL TABRIZ

USINT BAGHDAD

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SREF, IZ, IR

SUBJECT: IRAN COPES WITH FLOOD OF KURDISH REFUGEES

SUMMARY: IRANIAN RED LION AND SUN SOCIETY ESTIMATES SOME 73,000 KURDISH REFUGEES NOW BEING SHELTERED AND FED IN SOME 9 CAMPS IN NORTHWESTERN IRAN. (AMCONSUL TABRIZ BELIEVES TOTAL NOT OVER 50,000 - SEE TABRIZ 20) TWO OF THESE CAMPS BEING EQUIPPED WITH PERMANENT BUILDINGS INTO WHICH REFUGEES WILL MOVE BEFORE WINTER BEGINS. CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM BRAY, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY, CONSULATE AND MAAG OFFICERS, VISITED A PERMANENT AND A TENT CAMP SEPTEMBER 7. GROUP IMPRESSED BY EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION AND LEVEL OF SERVICES PROVIDED. NO OFFICIAL PLEA FOR US ASSISTANCE MADE. END SUMMARY.

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1. REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM BRAY, ON PRIVATE VISIT TO IRAN, OBTAINED PERMISSION SEE KURDISH REFUGEE CAMPS SEPTEMBER 7, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY AND MAAG OFFICERS AND AMCONSUL TABRIZ. GUIDE WAS DR. (AND GENERAL) ERFANI, DIRECTOR RED LION AND SUN SOCIETY FOR WEST AZERBAIJAN.

2. ZIVEH CAMP, LOCATED NEAR BORDER WITH TURKEY, IS BOTH TENT CITY AND PERMANENT CAMP. TENT CITY SHELTERS 8,000 KURDISH REFUGEES, OF WHOM 5,000 ARE CHILDREN AND 1,500 WOMEN. ALL CAME FROM PIRANSHAHR, WHICH IS STAGING AREA. TENTS WELL SPACED AND SANITARY PRECAUTIONS GOOD. 14-BED HOSPITAL AVAILABLE, STAFFED WITH 3 DOCTORS, 8 NURSES. SCHOOLS, TRAINING CENTER FOR CRAFTS, SPORTS FIELD, GENERAL STORE PROVIDED. FOOD ISSUED IN BULK AND REFUGEES COOK FOR THEMSELVES. SOME 25 MASONRY AND STEEL STRUCTURES BEING BUILT IN PERMANENT CAMP, WHICH WILL HAVE CAPACITY OF 12-15,000. ABOUT THIRD OF THEM HAVE ROOFS ON AND SOCIETY INSISTS CONSTRUCTION WILL BE FINISHED BEFORE WINTER COMES.

3. AQ BULAQ CAMP, SOUTH OF ZIVEH, IS TENT CITY OF 6,000 REFUGEES. THIS TEMPORARY CAMP WAS BUILT JUST OVER TWO MONTHS AGO, AND INHABITANTS WILL MOVE TO ZIVEH STRUCTURES FOR WINTER. ALTHOUGH MORE SPARTAN THAN ZIVEH CAMP, THIS WAS EQUALLY WELL LAID OUT AND CLEAN. SOME INHABITANTS EMPLOYED IN PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS TO STAVE OFF BOREDOM AND EARN POCKET MONEY.

4. OTHER RED LION AND SUN CAMPS IN WESTERN AZERBAIJAN: NALIWAN (7,000 REFUGEES); KOLTEH, NEAR SARDASHT (7,000), AND RABAT (TO BE PERMANENT CAMP WITH 12,000). CAMPS IN KERMANSHAHAN PROVINCE ARE SARYAS (13,000) AND MARIWAN (4,000).

5. KURDISH DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEMBERS INTRODUCED TO GROUP IN REZAIEH CLAIMED SOME 5,000 REFUGEES A DAY WERE ARRIVING IN IRAN, WHILE ALMOST 250,000 MORE WERE WAITING ON IRAQI SIDE OF BORDER. AS TURKS HAD CLOSED BORDER WITH IRAQ AND SYRIA HAD REFUSED TO TAKE REFUGEES, THEY SAID, IRAN WAS ONLY HOPE AND HAD RESPONDED WELL TO HUMANITARIAN NEEDS. (ERFANI IMPLIED THAT THERE WAS SOME SELECTIVITY EXERCISED AND ONLY ABOUT 100,000 MORE WOULD BE ALLOWED IN.) ONE KDP MEMBER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLAIMED IRAQIS HAD USED CLUSTER BOMB UNIT WEAPONS AGAINST KURDS. HE SAID 60 PERCENT OF CASUALTIES WERE WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

6. GOVGEN DEHESTANI TOLD GROUP HE HAD JUST VERIFIED KILLING OF 15 IRANIANS AT KOHNEH LAHIJAN, FIVE KILOMETERS FROM IRAQI BORDER. BOMBING ATTACK BY FOUR PLANES OCCURRED ABOUT 0830 HOURS AND VILLAGE ON PLAIN, NOT IN HILLS; FACTORS WHICH CON-

VINCE DEHESTANI ATTACK WAS DELIBERATE. SOVIET MARKINGS  
VISIBLE ON TAIL FINS OF AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOUR BOMBS DROPPED  
DURING ATTACK.

7. COMMENT: ERFANI CONDUCTED LOW-KEY FACTUAL BRIEFING WHICH  
POINTED UP IMPRESSIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS. PLAIN-CLOTHES SECURITY  
PERSONNEL INHIBITED CONTACT WITH REFUGEES EXCEPT WHEN ERFANI  
INTERVENED. BRAY ALLOWED TO PHOTOGRAPH CAMPS. ONLY HINT OF  
NEED FOR US ASSISTANCE WAS MADE BY KDP MEMBER BUT NOT PICKED  
UP BY SOCIETY OFFICIALS, WHO APPEAR PROUD TO BE DOING JOB  
WITH OWN RESOURCES. THIS CONTRASTS WITH EDITORIALS IN TEHRAN  
PRESS CRITICIZING ICRC AND UN FOR NOT OFFERING TO ASSIST IRAN  
WITH REFUGEE PROBLEM.

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## Message Attributes

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